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FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1910.

Government by the People.

Popular government has an earnest and convincing champion in Hon. Jonathan Bourne, Jr., senior Senator from the most popularly governed and progressive State, politically, in the Union—Oregon.
His address, delivered yesterday, presents the issue in a manner that will command wide attention. A political evolution, not a revolution, is impending, and Oregon, first to evolve a system of honest politics and honest popular elections, leads in a movement that is destined, no doubt, to reach every Commonwealth of the republic. She occupies a proud, exalted position to-day in the sisterhood of States.

"Nothing will ruin the country," said Webster, "if the people themselves will undertake its safety; and nothing can save it if they leave that safety in any hands but their own." That was an axiom when it was uttered seventy-six years ago; it is an axiom to-day. If the government would endure, it must be a popular government—a government, such as its founders intended, of the people, for the people, and by the people. In the minds of the masses it has come to be a government by political dictatorship. Senator Bourne is absolutely right in ascribing the country's present ills to bitter public resentment against existing conditions and waning confidence on the part of the people in their public servants.

Ultra-conservatives would have us believe that the Oregon system, embracing direct selection of candidates by the people, the initiative and referendum, a stringent corrupt-practices act, and the recall from office of a recalcitrant public servant is chimerical and socialistic. It is neither. On the contrary, it is the most practical plan for popular rule and at the same time the best possible preventive of socialism, in that it removes its cause for being.

The Oregon plan of selection and election is no longer a theory. It is a demonstrated agency of public good. It has taken out of the hands of party machines and vested in the people control of the affairs of the State, and recent history gives ample proof that the people have used the power thus given them wisely and well. A progressive step was taken in the enactment of these laws, and that step will never be retraced.

Having undergone a supreme test in the election of a Democrat—Chamberlain—to the United States Senate by a Republican legislature, confirmatory of the people's mandate, Oregon's direct primary system is secure beyond peradventure. A more shameful episode in politics has never been disclosed than that involving the Republican national chairman, or one of his lieutenants, in an attempt to corrupt legislators into a betrayal of their pledge in the Senatorship election by promise of Federal appointment.

As Bacon said, "States as great engines move slowly," but every student of American affairs must see that with the breaking of party lines a new and better era in politics is coming, if not immediately at hand, and that ultimately all the States will follow Oregon's lead by enacting laws that will make popular government possible. That era can come none too soon for the country's good.

Senator Bourne, in speaking for his State, speaks for a just and righteous system that has passed the experimental stage and is bound to commend itself to people throughout the land who demand popular government as an inherent, inalienable right.

The High Cost of Living.

A correspondent in the New York Post says that the vitagraph shows—the 5 and 10 cent moving picture theaters—are largely responsible for the high cost of living. He thinks they get the cream of the poor man's income—that which should constitute his surplus fund.
This seems rather strange when it is remembered that not so very long ago the high-price theaters were complaining that the vitagraph theaters were the things responsible for a large falling off in high-price theater receipts.

Having slowed down on the \$5 and \$2 shows in favor of the 5-cent and 10-cent shows, must the plain people now slow down on the latter in favor of the free shows—such as they are? Shall the common run of humanity enjoy nothing in the way of amusements that costs a trifle of money, and all on account of the increasing, and ever increasing, cost of living?
Somehow, we think there is something

wrong with this correspondent's idea. It may be that there are a lot of people who cannot afford to attend even a cheap theater now and then. But that, if it is not the individual's fault, certainly is not the theater's fault. The vitagraph theater is not the cause of the high cost of living. It may be that much of its popularity is a result of the high cost of living—an effect or consequence.

After all, was James J. Hill right when he said that the present high cost of living is merely the cost of high living? Automobiles crowd our streets; luxurious trains carry thousands of people from place to place every day; floating palaces plow the seas, conveying our restless ones to Europe and back, day after day, month after month. We all wish the finest cuts of meat, and the best cigars and wines to follow. Somebody has to pay for all these things. The poor little vitagraph theaters do not cut much figure in that problem.

It is doubtful whether we ever shall be able, even in this land of wonderful accomplishments, to eat our cake and have it, too. If we live high, we may expect it to come high. And the fact that it does should not surprise us, perhaps, nearly so much as it seems to.

Pennsylvania Avenue.

Anything that will make for the improvement of Pennsylvania avenue as a business thoroughfare, on the north side, commends itself to us, and heartily. Rookies predominate. The presentable squares to-day are the exception; rows of ancient, dilapidated structures the rule.
Everybody realizes and deplores the tendency of the Avenue toward retrogression in certain respects. Practically one whole block, formerly occupied by substantial business firms, has given place now to small theaters with Bowery-like aspect, and a transformation akin to it is in evidence elsewhere. A few magnificent piles, speaking for twentieth century Washington, tend only to emphasize the antiquity of the thoroughfare as a whole.

These observations, containing nothing new whatever, are made preliminary to our unqualified approval of the Senate's action in so amending the pending building regulation bill as to permit the erection at Twelfth street and the Avenue of a million-dollar hotel whose height may be 161 feet. It is an action prompted by common sense, and the conferees should not hesitate a moment to concur in the amendment. We are for the sky line every time and harmony always, but neither will suffer in the slightest degree, with the towering post-office across the way, and the imposing New Willard, of equal height, only two squares away. Why there should be objection on the part of any Avenue property owner when immeasurable business benefit would accrue from such improvement is quite beyond our comprehension.

Legislation to fit special cases does not usually meet our approval; but this amendment—offered, as we understand, not at the suggestion of those immediately concerned, but at the instance of competent District authority—would meet our approval even more heartily if it extended to every square along the Avenue.

Pennsylvania avenue needs this proposed structure—needs it badly—and the House will sacrifice nothing, but act with perfect propriety and common sense in ratifying the Senate amendment, and ratifying it promptly.

Naval Injustice.

A remarkable case has come before Congress in the form of relief for a former enlisted man, one Chapman, in whose behalf legislative authority is sought in order to restore his name to the naval rolls as an ordinary seaman, and then to give him an honorable discharge from the navy, regardless of certain court-martial findings. This man was serving on board the U. S. S. Missouri, and while at the Boston Navy Yard became involved in a difficulty with a petty officer of that vessel, whom he was charged with assaulting and refusing to obey orders. He was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment, being confined for nearly a year, when he was released and dishonorably discharged.

The evidence now shows that this enlisted man "was grossly insulted by the petty officer, who called him vulgar names and applied to him epithets of an exceedingly insulting nature; and still, from a military standpoint, the House Naval Committee is not certain that Chapman was justified in striking this petty officer, yet the committee is satisfied that the action of the petty officer was such as to provoke anger and cause one to forget discipline and act hastily." The young man had the benefit of an excellent character, and it is now proposed to place him in fair relations with the service. It also appears that the sentence would have been remitted and he would have been restored to duty, but the Navy Department proceeded so slowly that he had been discharged and gone his way before anything was done.

There must be something lacking in the administration of naval justice when a young man can be thrust into prison for a year under conditions which are found by the House Naval Committee to be so entirely in his favor. The question which naturally comes up relates to the failure of a naval court to ascertain the facts in the first instance and to take into consideration the great provocation for this breach of discipline. Discipline itself can be supported only by being connected with justice to individuals, and when a petty officer grossly insults a subordinate and gets what he deserves in consequence, the man to be punished is the petty officer. That would do more to create satisfaction among the enlisted men, it seems to us, than any hide-bound adherence to traditions of discipline and rules of obedience. There are times when the formalities of respect for superiors in the military-naval establishment may be, and ought to be, ignored. Possibly Congress will not find time to take up this measure of relief, which is also an act of justice, according to the report from the House Naval Committee. In that event, the object of the legislation may be excused if he entertains a grievance against his government. The

year in prison will not be restored to him as a period of freedom and profitable activity by an act of Congress. The circumstances of this case might very well be the occasion of some further inquiry as to the proceeding which sent a young man to prison when he deserved so much less, or perhaps no, punishment.

Pretty soon we shall all be explaining that there are ninety-nine million, ninety-nine thousand and seven people in this country, "not including Mr. Roosevelt."

The Senatorial investigation into the high cost of living accomplished everything the people expected of it. And while that was nothing whatever, it still is more than may be said of every Senatorial investigation.

The baseball umpire is a unique citizen. Everybody curses him from one end of the country to the other, and yet we doubt not that he finds it easy enough to borrow money.

"Was Napoleon a lover or a liar?" inquires the Macon News. Pass the query along to the sweet summer girls. Doubtless they will decide that he was like the majority of mankind, a good deal of both.

"There is a movement to erect in every Southern capital a monument to the old black 'mammy,'" says the Baltimore Star. There are hundreds of monuments to the old black "mammy" throughout the South now, and men and true, walking around and making themselves useful.

We think that one branch of the ancient and meddlesome tribe of Smart Alecks probably has met its Waterloo, at last. It has been seeking to prove that Pocahontas was a myth. And we rather guess the mighty clan Smith will see about that!

The colonel doubtless let it be known to the Danes that, in his opinion, Hamlet was no mollycoddle.

The mint beds are looking greener in Alabama, and their fragrance is more noticeable, perhaps.

The comet is visible to the naked eye now. That is, it is unless it is not.

"A photographer who is an artist will never permit his photographs to flatter a patron," says a London contemporary. Certainly not! In fact, he probably will not have any patrons to flatter.

George Bernard Shaw has apologized for living in England. That ought to make England feel better.

"The royal rush is telling on the colonel," notes a cablegram. The "royal rush" will do well to go slow on that. People have landed in the Ananias Club for "telling on the colonel."

The straw hat never before had such a time getting ahead.

Col. Roosevelt spoke of Holland as "home," notes the Savannah News. To be sure. With the colonel, home always is where his hat is.

The party that has just climbed Mount McKinley says it is 24,000 feet high. Dr. Cook claimed it to be only 20,300 feet high. For a liar, Dr. Cook is easily the world's champion gull goose!

Well, if you are not in the census, we cannot help it, and you will have to wait another ten years. The newspapers tried their best to get you interested to the limit.

The recent election in Alabama certainly has trotted a host of I-told-you-sos out of their lairs.

The next time Mr. Taft starts a railroad bill along the Congressional way he should be a little surer of his train crew.

A Chicago defendant complains bitterly that a judge should have conceded the defendant's wife's right to search his pockets at night. And yet, if the defendant were the judge, he would, of course, realize the uselessness of handing down any other decision.

He is a mighty poor Democrat who has not already picked out a postmaster or something, for personal use along about 1913.

Anyway, the man who rides in the upper Pullman berth should get a bunch of trading stamps or something!

There is a suspicion abroad that Gov. Harmon started the Nick Longworth gubernatorial boom out in Ohio.

High health, politics, or what not, it is high time that winter "retired" from the lap of spring, too.

"If you just must kiss somebody, kiss your mother-in-law," advises a Boston minister. The chances are that she will realize, moreover, that that is exactly why you did it.

CHAT OF THE FORUM.

Believes in Reciprocity.
From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
Taft says he is tired of Congress. This is the first declaration he has made to show his belief in reciprocity.

Promoting Quiet.
From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
As for prospective speeches in Indiana by Messrs. Roosevelt and Bryan, possibly the gentlemen could be induced to pair.

Insulting the Old Flag.
From the Kansas City Star.
Speaker Cannon can't get over the idea that any harm to him is a slap at the flag and a blow at our institutions.

Looking for a Loophole.
From the Omaha Bee.
Mr. Hearst is just walking around the fence to spy a loose plank that might afford an opening into the big arena of public attention.

Emigrants Not Bothered.
From the Boston Transcript.
The high cost of living is not checking the volume of immigration. The newcomers know how to utilize what the American people waste.

Mr. Aldrich's Successor.
From the Dallas News.
It is no doubt true that Mr. Aldrich will choose his successor in the Senate. The people of Rhode Island will expect him, however, to select some man from that State.

Representation.
From the Kansas City Star.
Representative Miller's explanation that he has followed the wishes of the President, who represents the whole country, rather than the instruction of the 230,000 persons of the Fourth Kansas district, whom he is supposed to represent, would be somewhat embarrassing to Mr. Miller, even if it were a tenable position.

He represented the whole country, but the administration Mr. Miller did not consider the wishes of either the President or his own district, but obeyed the commands of Speaker Cannon, who represented an Illinois district.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A MAY PHILOSOPHER.
I saw my neighbor move his junk
And it was far from neat.
His furniture was old and punk
And littered up the street.

I saw him quarrel with the man
Who drove the padded dray,
And wrangle with the moving clan
In most unseemly way.

He tells me that his new abode
Is narrow as a crate
And decorated in the mode
Of 1848.

His rent is higher than it was,
The movers broke a couch;
It is no wonder that he has
An animated frown.

He makes me satisfied with life
Within its normal groove,
And every day I tell my wife
I'm glad we didn't move.

A GENIUS.
"That boy of mine is a wonder in his way."
"What is he doing?"
"Nothing; and making it pay, apparently."

As to a Friend.
"She says she could have married millions in her youth."
"Then her forbearance is more remarkable than I thought. She only married five or six."

WHY NOT?
The humorist might join the band
Of money-making folks;
Get up a nice prospectus, and
Incorporate some jokes.

Instant.
"Cholly doesn't stick to one girl very long."
"No; he is inclined to be fickle. I never knew him to stick to the same brand of cigarettes for more than a month."

Civic Pride.
"I propose to hurl myself from yon cliff."
"You insist on suicide?"
"I do."
"Well, you skyscraper is just as high. Hurl yourself from it and help advertise our town."

Rough on the Girl.
"Now, my boy, you have a past. Marry some nice girl and blot it out."
"Just so, dad. And whom would you suggest as a possible blotter?"

WILL HAVE HIS JOKE.
Great Tenor Is Like an Overgrown Boy in His Fondness for Fun.

From Harper's Weekly.
Caruso is an unconquerable wag. One night we were sitting on the altar steps before the rising of the curtain on "Tosca." The stage hands were putting on the finishing touches among which was the placing of an artist's brush in a certain spot on the floor. Everyone who passed by took pains to pick up that brush and place it carefully on the easel. Each time this happened, some property man would replace the brush on the floor. Finally Caruso got a hammer and nail and spiked it down. No more was thought of it until the curtain had risen, when the little sacristan with his feather duster, stooping to pick up the brush, found it would not budge. That night the brush stayed on the floor; and Caruso, painting at his easel, had a good chuckle to himself. Later, when the little sacristan held up the paint box that Cavara-dossi (Caruso) might choose his colors, he received a dab of green across his face in recognition of the brush episode.

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When Senator Dixon said Senator Elkins accused him of forming an alliance with the Democrats, the rotund statesman from West Virginia took occasion to say a few words about the so-called insurgents, and his words were complimentary rather than insulting.

"I don't know any insurgents," said Senator Elkins. "I don't want to know any, and what is more, I don't believe there are any insurgents. I want all of the so-called irregulars in the Republican party and will do all I can to keep them in, for we need all we can get this fall."

The colloquy between the two Senators furnished no little amusement for the large number of Senators present.

Instead of patronizing the House gymnasium, the members have a vote by tellers after a sleepy session. When a viva voce is taken and there is doubt, a division is called for, and then, in order to stretch their legs, tellers are demanded, and a short Marathon walk is indulged in. By this means the lawmakers get their usual daily exercise.

After the interesting interchange of sentiments between Senators Dixon and Elkins, Senator Money spoke on the situation in the Senate, and in a few well-chosen words testified to the ability and strength of purpose displayed by the insurgent Senators. Later, when talking to a friend in the lobby, the minority leader justified their actions, "and," said he, with much emphasis, "take my position as an example."

"I don't command the Democratic party, nor does the Democratic party command me. The party can instruct me, and it is then up to me."

Senator Bourne delivered his speech on "Popular government" yesterday. Prior to his advent into the Senate, Senator Bourne had never made a speech before a gathering, but since entering the Senate he has made at least two memorable addresses to that body. The first one of importance was on a business form of government and the second that of yesterday. The anticipation of something good attracted a large number of Senators, who remained throughout the speech. Those who heard the address were not disappointed, for the subject was covered in a masterly style.

The points considered showed thought, and they were presented in a clear and concise manner. Senator Bourne makes no pretensions to oratory, but his delivery was in a strong voice and his enunciation was perfect. His well known honesty of purpose and the high regard for him by all the Senators attracted Democrats as well as Republicans, and he was listened to with marked attention.

The speech, delivered in such a quiet but forcible manner, stirred up a storm of protest among the Democrats, who immediately after Senator Bourne's speech, he complimented the Oregon Senator on his instructive remarks. Senator Bacon also took the occasion to fire some well-directed shots at the spoils system, the manner of appointing postmasters, and it was a safe bet that the ears of the Postmaster General burned to white heat yesterday afternoon.